



News Release

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NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY CEREMONY AT NEW CUMBERLAND DEFENSE DEPOT

NEW CUMBERLAND, PA. – The Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., the largest of 26 distribution depots comprising the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) in New Cumberland, Pa., will pay tribute to America's Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing In Action (MIA) when it hosts a POW/MIA Recognition Day Observance Friday, September 16, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. A rain date has been set for Friday, September 23, 2005. The ceremony will take place at the Installation's POW/MIA Memorial Plaza, opposite the DDC Headquarters building.

The Keynote Speaker is United States Army Reserve Sgt. Patrick Dugan. Patrick Francis Michael Dugan, father of three, lives and works in Philadelphia as an attorney for City Councilman Rick Mariano and as a Liquor Control Board Judge for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Dugan is a member of US Army Reserves, 416th Civil Affairs Battalion headquartered in Norristown, Pa. Dugan served in Iraq from February 2004 to October 2004. He worked as the CPA Political Officer, US Embassy Political Officer and machine gunner and/or driver for 416th Civil Affairs Battalion. Dugan also spearheaded a project to bring smiles onto the faces of the children of Iraq. Tens of thousands of items were mailed directly to Dugan and then distributed to the youngsters of his area. For his service in Iraq, Dugan was awarded the Bronze Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. During the 1980's, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division, Recon 1/505th Airborne Infantry, and served overseas in Panama with the 1/508th Airborne Infantry and along the DMZ in South Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division, 1/38th Infantry. In addition, Dugan is the Vice Chairman of the 82nd Philadelphia Association. Philadelphia Magazine selected him as Philadelphian of the Year 2004.

DDSP Commander United States Navy Supply Corps Capt. Jim Naber, will preside over the remembrance observance. Capt. Naber and representatives of the American Legion William H. Nauss Post 143 and Auxiliary will lay a wreath at the memorial for the nation's POW/MIAs. The wreath dedication will be followed by a 21-gun salute, a

release of doves and the playing of Taps. United States Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey K. Ling, Jr., Harrisburg MEPS Station Superintendent, will deliver the Invocation and Benediction.

The 193rd Special Operations Wing Honor Guard is to perform the Firing Detail; a 553rd Band member that is under command of the 193rd Special Operations, will follow with "Taps." The 193rd is the only Special Forces unit in the Air Guard with units in Harrisburg, Lebanon, State College and Johnstown. Members of the unit have deployed to every major world conflict since the Vietnam War - keeping the skies over the United States safe from future attacks.

Special music is to be presented by traditional Celtic Musician Mr. Rodney E. Owens, MACS (USNR-Ret). Mr. Rodney Owens has played the Scottish/Irish Warpipes at many special occasions in and around south central Pennsylvania including performances for the governor and other dignitaries.

The first national commemoration held to honor America's POW/MIAs took place on July 18, 1979. Congress continued to pass resolutions yearly to recognize POW/MIAs until 1995. Since 1995, the president has signed a proclamation designating National POW/MIA Recognition Day. POW/MIAs are honored by our military, their families and their community each year on the third Friday of September. It is this nation's annual recognition of the sacrifices made in combat by those who have not returned.

Several family members of military members who have been listed as Missing In Action are expected to attend the ceremony along with local invitees. The public is welcome to attend this year's POW/MIA Remembrance Day Observance at New Cumberland to honor the memory of those before us who have given so much and to renew our commitment to bring them home.

Defense Distribution Center, New Cumberland, Pa., is the Defense Logistics Agency's Lead Center for Distribution. DLA provides supply support and technical and logistics services to the military services and to several civilian agencies. Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., DLA is the one source for nearly every consumable item, whether for combat readiness, emergency preparedness or day-to-day operations.